

WASHRAGTM

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VOLUME 22 ISSUE 01
JANUARY 2020

Wireless Association of South Hills



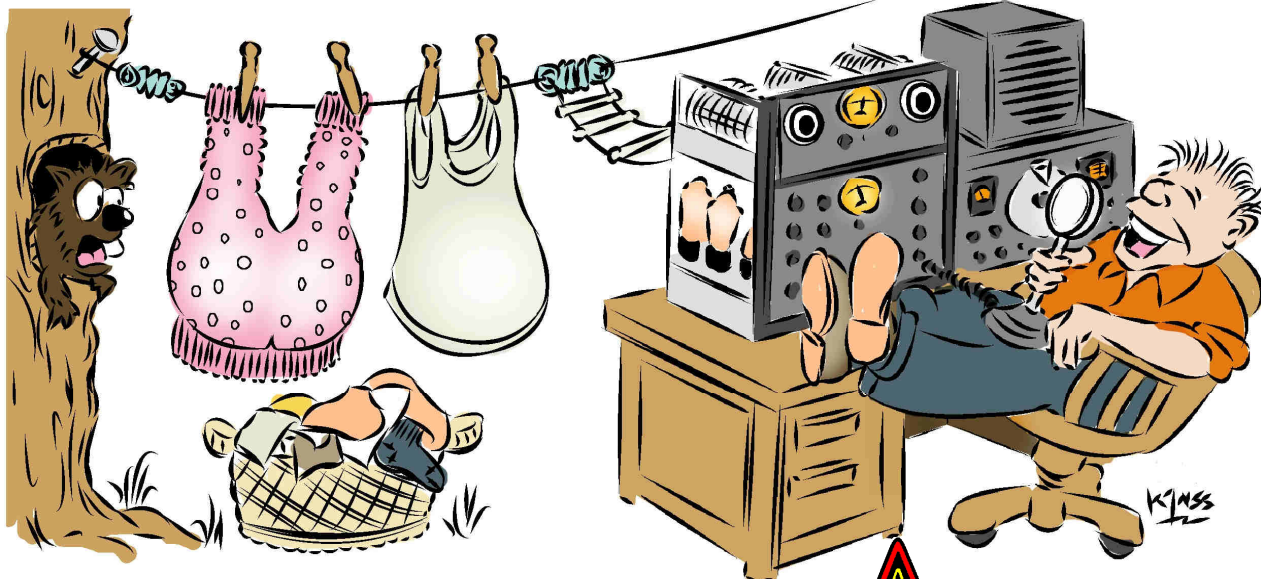
So, what was under your tree this year?

N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org



Wireless Association of South Hills



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 22 Issue 01

JANUARY 2020

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, January 2nd, 2020

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, January 2nd, 2020**, in the Conference Room at the **St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park, by South Hills Village & Village Square** (map on the back page). The room is available at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be starting at 7:00 PM.

Subjects for the meeting include upcoming plans for 2020, and **WASHFest 2020**.

See you there!

Cover Photo: Well, it's pretty self-explanatory, isn't it?
Cover Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2019, 2010 Ron Notarius W3WN

WASH 2020 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Tony Romano KB3BYA
VP / Secretary	Dan Campbell K3CMU
VP / Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH Trustee	Larry Comden K3VX
WA3SH Trustee	Rich Danko N3SBF
NP2SH Trustee	Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B QSL Manager	Ron Notarius W3WN
NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager	Carl Schroeder K9CS
VE Team Liaison	Ron Notarius W3WN
Webmaster	Curtis Turner KB3CMT
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
WASHFest 2020 Committee	Carol Danko KB3GMN, Chairman
	Bill Hill W3WH, Co-Chair
Activities & Operating Events	Rick Bell KB3IAC
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
WASH 2M Contest Chair	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
Field Day 2020 Coordinator	Glen Roberts KE7FD

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3SH / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
North Side	N3SH / R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FB / R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH / B	28.276 MHz	Propagation Beacon
Canonsburg	N3SH	144.390 MHz	APRS Digipeater

N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every **Monday** Night, 8:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters.

All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

THE LEGAL STUFF

"The WASHRag™" (formerly "The Mariner™") is the Official Newsletter of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)**, a 501.C.3 not for profit organization.

Published Monthly with occasional Special Editions as warranted.

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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Ron Notarius W3WN
3395 Rosewood Drive, Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546
e-mail: newsletter@n3sh.org or w3wn@arrl.net

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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23rd, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners & operators of both the N3SH/R Repeaters and the N3FB/R Repeater System for permitting the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes.

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test February 23rd

The Next WASH VE exam session will be on **Sunday, February 23rd**, 2020, 10:00 AM, at **WASHFest 2020**, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park, PA 15129. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz repeater. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Pre-registration is required due to space limitations.

If you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liaison Ron Notarius W3WN:

Telephone (412) 572-6723 or E-Mail: w3wn@n3sh.org

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)

Pen / Pencil / Calculator

Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)

Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

Check or Cash in the amount of **\$15.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: To Be Determined

Tony's Musings

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Welcome to 2020!

I hope the New Year allows everyone to be able to get to all those projects from all those new presents and such, I hope you will all be able to work all those public service events and spend time with your friends and family!

There is less than 2 weeks until the 20th Annual Two Meter Contest is coming up on January 11th!

And..

There is only 1 more club meetings before **WASHFest** and we are still looking for Chair-persons for various positions. Don't forget the main prize will be a Flex-6400M so spread the word - Need to sell them tickets!!

— 73, Tony Romano KB3BYA
President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH



AMSAT CW Activity Day 2020 will take place on January 1, 2020 (UTC), sponsored by AMSAT.

All radio amateurs are invited to participate in the annual event — in 2020 being held in memory of Larry Brown W7LB, and Keith Pugh W5IU.

Participation is easy: Operate on CW through any Amateur Radio satellite on New Year's Day. Straight keys or bugs are encouraged but not required.

♪ "On the last Saturday of December, my true love gave to me... breakfast with the **WASH Breakfast Gang!**" ♪ OK, it doesn't QUITE have the right 'ring' to it, so we'll work on it... meanwhile, the Gang met again as usual at Eat 'N Park, 3380 Washington Road (US 19) in McMurray. The chorus this month consisted of WB4GCS, N3FB, KB3GMU, K3VX, KB3BYA & Amy, KB3JHR, KC3NSH, W3WH & W3WN.

Topics of the morning included new jobs and promotions, the Flight 93 Visitor's Center, new cars & #8 wiring, analyzing the Baofeng — testing at a future meeting?, finding room in a new car for a rig, CAN network from Germany, white cable vs. blue cable (I thought you were supposed to clip the red wire... black wire... hmmm), computers at the 2019 PA QSO Party, N3FJP & N1MM+ software concerns & learning curves at the 2019 Pa QSO Party, rehearsal for the St. Kitts outing, did someone spot a "For Sale" sign on W3SRL's front lawn?, a broken Vertical spotted on a garage off of Annex in/near Dormont, buying headphones at Tanger Outlet, "You're being Too Nuclear!", power outages and generators, property taxes, the laws of unintended consequences... and much, much more.

Our next gathering of the Gang will be the first one of 2020, on January 25th, returning to the **Eat 'N Park**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19) in McMurray, officially starting at **8:00 AM**. While we don't need a "head count" to reserve tables as we've previously done, **please** let Jim WB4GCS know ahead of time if you are planning on coming... if you don't, though and decide at the last minute, we'll have plenty of room for you! See you there?

A timely reminder... if you notice **interference on the 146.955 repeater**, please make sure you log the date & time and a summary of what you may have heard, and let Tony KB3BYA know. As many of you know, there have been reports of encroachment from users of a repeater on the same frequency in an adjacent state. If it reaches the point where something will need to be said, we (ie Tony, as Club Prez) needs to have something more than "we think we heard something." Certainly no reason why we can't all co-exist, but if a problem crops up, the sooner we can address it and resolve it, the better.

As we start the New Year, you should soon be hearing more about the upcoming **KDKA Centennial Special Event Station(s)**, scheduled to take place at the end of October and beginning of November 2020. The 1x1 calls have been reserved, and plans are still being worked on. Anyone interested in helping out on the event, be it a planner or an operator, should contact "Radio Free" Bob WC3O ... or better yet, join the Groups.io discussion group he's setup for just that purpose. The event WILL be open to all SWPA amateur radio operators who want to participate, regardless of which club (if any) they belong to.

Plans are also in the works for activating Dr. Frank Conrad's old call (which later became the 'experimental' Westinghouse call for the KDKA Shortwave transmitters) **8XK** and later **W8XK**, throughout the course of 2020, even if it won't be part of the "official" celebration outside of the Special Event dates. These activations, when they happen, will also be open to all SWPA operators. More on that in the coming months.

We're coming up on just shy of 2 months before **WASHFest 2020** at the end of February. Yes, things are humming along as usual. But that doesn't mean that we take things for granted. Tables still have to be sold, as well as Main Ticket prize tickets. All sorts of little tasks need someone to step up and take care of them. So now is the time; if you haven't already spoken to Carol KB3GMN and seen how you can help, don't put it off another day. There's a lot to be done, if we all chip in though, the tasks won't be so bad, and we can all have a great time. Remember, this is THE premier public event for the club. Area hams look forward to it all winter. We've set ourselves a high bar... let's see if we can meet or exceed it again this year!

And in just a few weekends is our annual **WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest**. Almost hard to believe that it was 20 years ago when this idea of a short little contest to help promote our hamfest started... and where it's led to over the years. Rules for this year's event are here in the newsletter. You don't need much... an HT will be more than sufficient to get started! More information at the next meeting, or drop a note to Chuck KC3ELA. Hope to work you!

And by the way... Happy New Year!

Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 15

Minutes, December 5th Meeting

Dan Campbell K3CMU, Vice President/Secretary, **WASH**

Call to Order: 19:07 hours; Presiding Officer: Tony Romano (KB3BYA)

Pledge of Allegiance Moment of Silence: Silent Keys & Others

Number of Members Present: 18; Numbers of Guests: 3.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer: Mark Stabryla, (N3RDV)

- ♦ Motion to Accept: Bill (W3WH); Seconded by: Richie (N3SBF). Accepted: Yes.

Secretary: Dan Campbell (K3CMU):

- ♦ Are there any corrections to the Minutes: No.
- ♦ Motion to Accept By: Carol (KB3GMN); Seconded by: Gene (KB3JHR) Passed: Yes

Repeaters: Frank (N3FB):

- ♦ "Are Repeating"

WASHNet

- ♦ Charles (Chuck) Bihun, III (K3CELA): Good attendance; Curtis (KB3CMT stepped up as guest Net Controller;
- ♦ Glen (KE7FD) Tuesday Net: Light attendance; starts at 8:30 pm – all invited!
- Contests: Larry Comden (K3VX):
- ♦ Chuck (K3CELA): 2 meter coming Jan 11, 2019;
- ♦ Bill (W3WH) & Larry (K3VX) traveling to St. Kits – February 17 & 18, 2020, invited contacts.
- ♦ Bill (W3WH) suggested that the club consider 2 Meter Awards.

Public Service:

- ♦ Jim (WB4GCS): Holiday Parade participation by Ham operators was quite successful, they were invited back next year, Jim discussed lessons learned for next year, a back-up net Control should be groomed. Enough volunteers responded to fill spots needed.
 - ♦ Mike (WA3PYU): SKYWARN Appreciation on 147.09 or HF 40 or 80; ARES Christmas Party RSVPs should already be submitted, if not, do ASAP. The club should be looking for new opportunities to provide public service
- Newsletter: Ron Notarius (W3WN): Published, Great job!
- Volunteer Examiners: Ron Notarius (W3WN): next exams at Hamfest
- Ways & Means (including Membership Contributions): Carol Danko (KB3GMN):

- ♦ Hamfest going great; should receive Flex 6400M radio soon;
- ♦ Balance of prizes coming after Christmas.

President's Report:

- ♦ Call for volunteers for Hamfest & Field Day. Enjoy the holidays!

Old Business:

- ♦ Glen (KE7FD) will chair the Field Day Committee;
- ♦ Having difficulty connecting with school regarding donation of Ham equipment; the club may want to sell the equipment and possibly establish a scholarship fund.

New Business: (none)

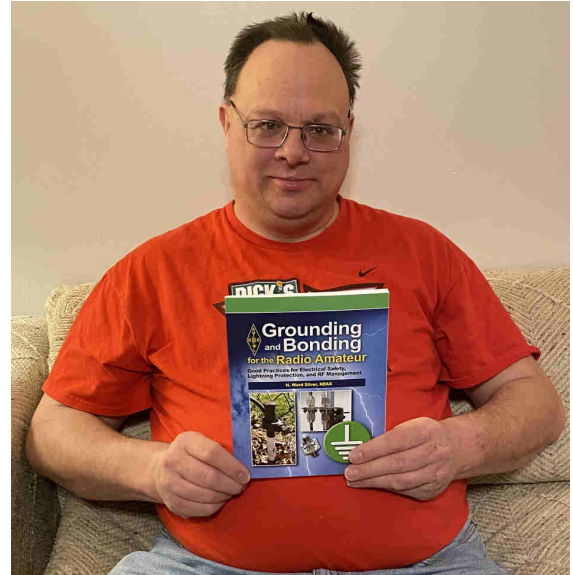
Good of the Order: (none)

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Carol (KB3GMN) Seconded: Frank (N3FB)

Meeting Adjourned: 19:50 hours



WASH Spotlight: NU3Q



Bob Mente NU3Q with one of the items found under his tree on Christmas Morning! (Another's on Page 13!)

Photos are courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Bob Mente NU3Q

Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at [newsletter at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh.org)

Monthly WASH Breakfast



Please join us for the next **WASH** Breakfast! We usually get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, drink lots of coffee, and just have a good time!

Join us this month at **Eat'nPark**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19), McMurray. Start time is about 8 AM until ????

Monitor 146.955 & 443.659 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, **WASH** members or not, amateurs or not!

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

2020
K3CMU
K3GW
KB3BYA
KB3DCO
KB3GMU
KB3JHR
KC4WTT
N3FB
N3RDV
WB4GCS

2019
AA3GM
AB3NM
K3HCR
K3VX
K6DWR

KA3VXM
KB3CMT
KB3GMN
KB3IAC
KB3IVX
KB3ORO
KB3YCX
KC3ELA
KC3GMM
KC3MLC
KC3NWM
KE7FD
N3DFK
N3KFD

N3RDG
N3SBF
N3TDV
N3ZK
N8NEU
NU3Q
W3LE
W3RON
W3WH
W3WN
WA3PYU
WA3VSS
WA3WXR
WO3Z

WASH FL
KA3UPY/M
W4ZE
WASH NE
N0PEU
WASH OR
KB3NVL
KB3NVM
WASH OH
N8DPW

WASH TN
K3OL
KE3XB
N3YPB
WASH TX
NB3C
K3LGM
KB3IJX
Jane Wagner
WASH VI
NP2JF

Silent Keys

AB3KA
K3EED
K3LIE
KA3NMG
KB3ENX
KB3FNM
KB3FQT
KB3JHQ
N3CZZ
N3FZ
N3HKQ
N3KEH
N3OBD
N3RNX
N3SKR
N3SRC
N3ZEL
N3XFE
W3ZLK
WA3JPP

If your call should be listed here & isn't, please contact Mark N3RDV

Through December 23rd, 2019
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2020 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

January 1 st	Straight Key Night	http://www.arrl.org
January 2 nd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
January 5 th	ARRL Kids Day	http://www.arrl.org
January 11 th	WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest	http://www.n3sh.org
January 19 th – 21 st	ARRL VHF Contest	http://www.arrl.org
February 6 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
February 16 th – 17 th	ARRL DX Contest CW	http://www.arrl.org
February 23 rd	WASHFest 2020	Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park 15129
	WASH VE Exams at WASHFest	
March 2 nd – 3 rd	ARRL DX Contest SSB	http://www.arrl.org
March 5 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
March 28 th – 29 th	CQ WPX Contest SSB	https://www.cqwpix.com
April 2 nd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
May 7 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102



Two Rivers ARC Hamfest 2020

Sunday, March 29th, 2020, 8:00 AM—2:00 PM

McKeesport Palisades and Event Center

100 Fifth Avenue, McKeesport, PA 15132

Talk-in on 146.730 PL 131.8 Admission \$5.00

More Information at <http://www.trarc.net>



N3RDV Antenna Work

Photos Courtesy of and (c)Copyright 2019 Glen Roberts KE7FD



Mark N3RDV took advantage of the good weather the Saturday after Christmas to put his dipole back up in the air. He was assisted by Nathan KC3GMM, Dan K3CMU, and Glen KE7FD.

With the use of a very tall ladder, nerves of steel, liquid tape, imaginary C4, they got the antenna up a few minutes after dark fell.

Note to self: wire strippers, rubber tape and more C4.



Texas Scout Leaders Promote Amateur Radio

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, December 31st, 2019 – In 2017, Category 4 Hurricane Harvey left the region of Texas where Assistant Scoutmaster Scott deMasi KC5NKK lived under water. With roads flooded, bridges washed away, and cellular service and power out, deMasi said it soon became clear that his Scout troop's emergency preparedness plan wasn't designed for a storm of this magnitude. It was frustrating, deMasi says, to discover he couldn't reliably reach all of Troop 839's 100 Scouts and their families to check if they were okay or to organize relief efforts as a unit. Something had to be done.



After the waters receded, deMasi and Assistant Scoutmaster David Godell came up with a plan that would not leave the troop incommunicado after a major weather disaster. With 15 years' experience as a radio amateur, deMasi suggested encouraging Scouts and parents trained to become ham radio licensees.

"It's a lifesaving skill, and it helps us to be prepared," Godell said. ("Be Prepared" is the Boy Scouts motto.)

An initial interest meeting was set, and Scouts were given links to study materials and offered transportation to examination sites, but participation was low. So, deMasi and Godell worked with a local radio club, the Texas Emergency Amateur Communicators, to organize a 1-day Technician licensing class that also would fulfill most requirements for Scouting's Radio merit badge.

In addition, the two Assistant Scoutmasters bought inexpensive handheld radios that they programmed to frequencies the troop would use, so after the class, the Scouts would receive the equipment needed to continue using their new skills.

Armed with their radios, more than two dozen licensed Scouts and adults began utilizing their newly earned communication capability at Scouting events. During campouts, they radioed information to patrols across the camp. On these occasions, the troop practices a "no cell phone" policy; ham radio provided the means to stay in touch with others.

At service projects, they communicated directions to Scouts spread throughout a wide area. Having radios and opportunities to regularly use them gave the Scouts confidence to get on the air. Seeing licensed Scouts with their handheld radios also encouraged other Scouts to get licensed as well.

"Once the Scouts got radios, others wanted radios," Godell said.

Some Troop 839 members participated in the annual Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), talking with other Scouts in several other states and in Central America.

"You could see eyes light up," deMasi recalled. — Adapted from a Scouting Magazine [blog post](#) by Michael Freeman

20th Annual WASH Two Meter Simplex Contest

This January will mark the Twentieth Annual **WASH** 2 Meter Simplex Contest. We've already had a lot of interest in it, and this year promises to be even more exciting! Everyone who participated in it the last nineteen years had a blast, & we hope to continue the tradition again this year!

Hopefully, we've worked out the kinks of the last couple of years, so here's looking forward to a good, smooth, and fun contest! — Chuck KC3ELA

Date & Times: Saturday, January 11th, 2020 from 7 to 11 PM EST. (That's January 12th 0000 — 0400 UTC to the purists!)

Objectives:

- To make as many contacts as possible
- To have fun!

Band, Mode & Frequencies: The contest will take place solely on 2 meter band.

- **FM** : FM simplex only, no repeater contacts. The FM frequencies are all standard 2 Meter simplex frequencies, as per the ARRL 2 Meter Band Plan, every **15 kHz**, from **146.505 to 146.595 MHz**, and **147.450 to 147.585 MHz**. Use of simplex frequencies in the "FM Experimental Simplex" band of 145.510 to 145.670 are not recommended. See list of recommended simplex channels at the end of the rules.
- **CW**: 144.05 to 144.1 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)
- **SSB & AM**: 144.2 to 144.275 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan).
- **Digital (including RTTY)**: 144.51 to 144.55 MHz. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan) Multiple digital modes may be used, and participants are free to use any generally accepted Digital mode, but only ONE Digital QSO with a given station regardless of mode

→ *Note: Listen for CW QSO's around 144.1 MHz 15 minutes after the hour*

→ *Listen for SSB & AM QSO's around 144.2 MHz 30 minutes after the hour*

→ *Listen for Digital QSO's around 144.51 MHz 45 minutes after the hour*

In the event of accidental QRM with nets and non-contest QSO's in progress, please respect their right to the frequency and QSY.

Power Limit: Maximum 100 watts output.

Exchange : Callsign, contact number, ZIP Code.

For the purposes of the contest, the 5 Digit ZIP Code for your location is sufficient — do not use the "Zip +4" code. Mobiles and portables should use the ZIP code of their location as determined to the best of their ability. Canadian stations will use their 6 digit postal code

Example 1: "N3ZCG from W8XK, please copy Number 3, 15347."

Example 2: "K3VX from K3CM, please copy Number 21, 16801"

Example 3: "W3WH from W3OC, please copy Number 7, 15137"

Contacts : Work as many different calls and locations as possible, giving Exchange as noted above. Work each station **once** per mode, and **once** per ZIP Code — Mobiles can be reworked whenever they change locations. Remember hilltops work best!

Disqualification: Remember, this is a friendly "for fun" contest. Stations may be disqualified for infractions of the rules and for unacceptable operating practices. While not an inclusive list, stations may be disqualified for:

- FM signals transmitted on simplex channels below 146.505 MHz.
- Intentional interference to non-contesters, nets, & QSO's
- Intentional interference to other contest operators
- The committee reserves the right to verify QSO's. QSO's that can not be verified may be removed from the log without penalty.

Scoring: Each Contact:

Phone (FM, SSB, AM): 1 point
CW: 2 points
Digital (any mode): 2 points

Multipliers:

Locations:

Power:

Number of different ZIP Codes

X 3 Stations running 10 Watts or Less
X 2 Stations running 10—30 Watts
X 1 Stations running over 30 Watts

Final Score: Total Points x Locations x Power

After the Contest: Fill out all the log information. In the upper left corner check whether "base" or "mobile." In the upper right corner be sure to enter your callsign and club affiliation (or "none" if not a member of any club). Please number all log sheets consecutively. Log sheets are now available for download from the **WASH** web site, www.n3sh.org, no later than January 1st.

Submit Log Sheets: Check your log sheets carefully for dupes. Verify that all information is entered.

Send the logs to: **** CORRECT ADDRESS FOR 2020 ****

WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest
c/o Charles Bihun KC3ELA
1918 Woodward Avenue, Apartment 2
Pittsburgh, PA 15226

Enclose a #10 SASE for return of results.

Entry Deadline: February 1st, 2020

Each log submitted on or before the deadline will receive one (1) main prize ticket to **WASHFest 2020 on February 23rd**

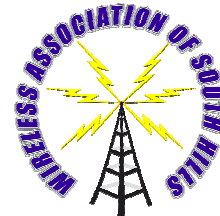
Logs submitted with an SASE will have their ticket mailed to them, otherwise, the tickets will be available at the **WASH** Club table

Recommended FM Simplex Frequencies:

146.505 MHz	146.520 MHz (*)	146.535 MHz	146.550 MHz	146.565 MHz	146.580 MHz
147.450 MHz	147.465 MHz	147.480 MHz	147.495 MHz	147.510 MHz	147.525 MHz
147.540 MHz	147.555 MHz	147.570 MHz	147.585 MHz		

Simplex channels below 146.505 MHz are not to be used, as many of these are in use in WPa as repeater input frequencies.

(*) The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520 MHz, may be used. However, many stations use 52 for casual conversation or as a calling frequency. If the frequency is in use or becomes used by non-participants, please permit them to use the frequency unimpeded. To avoid interference to other contestants and other users of the bands, please do not operate on 5 or 10 kHz "offsets" from these recognized FM channels.



WPA Section News

Joe Shupienis W3BC, ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager



Falls Creek, PA, December 28th, 2019 – Greetings everyone! I hope you're in good health and good spirits, and enjoying our favorite hobby!

Thank you all for a wonderful 2019. It's one for the record books, as this has been a very active year for all of us in our Western Pennsylvania Section. It has been both fun and rewarding for me to visit with so many of you at every hamfest and other ham activities.

Here's wishing you and yours all the best for the New Year. Please have a safe and sane New Year's Eve, and if you must drive, please keep an eye out for the other guy. Or deer.

Our WPA Digital Voice net is held every Wednesday at 7:30 pm on the 31422 WPA TG.

We encourage you to link to and use the 31422 talkgroup throughout the week to stay in touch with all the hams residing in the hills and dales in every corner of western PA!

If you would like to have an ARRL night at one of your club meetings, please let me know, and we'll do our best to have WPA staff members show up. Our WPA Section Staff is second to none, and we can be very proud of them and all their hard work on your behalf.

CW operators, I'll be looking for you on the low end of 80 meters during Straight Key Night. You don't have to get on the air at high speed -- you just have to get on the air, period! It's a fun way to kick out the old year, and kick off the new one by using the original digital mode... with your own digits on your own hand! (And I'll be happy to confirm your CW QSO with SKCC #289 as well!)

Stay warm and stay well!

73 and Press ON!



2020 Dayton Hamvention Theme will be "Amateur Radio, The Future"

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, December 9th, 2019 – The theme for the 2020 [Dayton Hamvention®](#) will be "Amateur Radio, The Future." Hamvention General Chair Jack Gerbs WB8SCT, invited Hamvention attendees to celebrate amateur radio's past, present, and future.

"As amateur radio operators, we enjoy many modes of operating," Gerbs said. "We also enjoy challenges such as satellite communications, moonbounce, meteor scatter, and more. What truly excites me about our hobby is the diversity of these modes and the fact that, as we move to the future, we still enjoy the technologies of the past."

Gerbs noted that Hamvention has long been a place to find vintage parts and gear and to see the latest technology.

"The theme acknowledges the role that amateur radio has always played and will continue to play in future communication developments," Hamvention said, acknowledging the contributions of the many hams who actively work on new ideas, equipment designs, and software to improve electronic communication.

[Dayton Hamvention®](#) is increasing the cost of admission and its booth fees. Hamvention General Chair Jack Gerbs WB8SCT, announced that general admission would rise by \$4 per ticket to \$26 in advance or \$31 at the gate for all 3 days. The cost of flea market spots will go up by \$5 per space, and inside exhibitors will pay \$30 more.

"Hamvention has always strived to produce a very high-quality event for amateur radio enthusiasts from around the globe," Gerbs said. "We have always felt it is imperative that we give back to amateur radio at many levels. We have been very generous in our support over the years." Gerbs cited "the economic pressures to present a show like Hamvention" as the reason for the price increases.

"The Hamvention Executive Team is asking for your support and understanding as we move forward together," he said.

Hamvention 2020 takes place May 15th – 17th at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio.



Dutch Call for Greater Visibility for Amateur Radio

Southgate Amateur Radio News / RL Brunton G4TUT

Rayleigh, Essex, England, UK, December 27th, 2019 – One of the Netherlands' national amateur radio societies, VERON, has called on radio amateurs to come out of the shack and show people the radio hobby.

VERON cites a number of instances where radio amateurs have got publicity for the hobby in the media, see their post in Google English at <https://tinyurl.com/NetherlandsVERON>

VERON Tweet: https://twitter.com/VERON_Nederland/status/1210496591926382592

VERON note the excellent articles that appeared in the UK publication MagPi which is also published in the Netherlands. This magazine has featured amateur radio articles by Dave Honess M6DNT and Rob Zwetsloot, see <http://www.southgatearc.org/news/2019/march/raspberry-pi-magazine-magpi-features-ham-radio.htm>



Rayleigh, Essex, England, UK, December 2nd, 2019 – Switzerland's national amateur radio society, the **USKA**, has released the minutes of the Board meeting held on November 18th.

While the full meeting minutes are only available to USKA members the highlights note the results of a meeting with the communications regulator OFCOM:

- ♦ WSPR and FT8 modes cannot be run unattended
- ♦ The request to allow special training call signs, as used in Germany, to give people on-air experience was rejected

The USKA will be further processing a proposal for a new training regulations.



— Courtesy of Southgate Amateur Radio News / RL Brunton G4TUT

ARRL Asks FCC to Dismiss Petition Seeking Declaratory Ruling on Encoded Message Rule

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, December 6th, 2019 – ARRL has asked the FCC to dismiss a *Petition for Declaratory Ruling* filed by New York University (NYU), that in ARRL's view proposes a new interpretation of the rule — Section 97.113(a)(4) — prohibiting "messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning." In its [December 2 filing](#), ARRL said NYU's call to "clarify" the rule's meaning to prohibit "effectively encrypted or encoded messages, including messages that cannot be readily decoded over the air for true meaning," is not only vague but could weaken the prohibition against encryption.

ARRL pointed out that the FCC rule prohibiting "messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning," is essentially the same as what appears in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) *Radio Regulations* applying to all countries. ARRL made clear that it continues to support rules prohibiting encrypted messages on the amateur bands, even for limited emergency communication purposes, and the ARRL Board reiterated that opposition last July.

In its comments, ARRL said that NYU's request that the FCC adopt its suggested language would introduce ambiguity and confusion in the application of a rule that's clearly understood to prohibit encrypted messages. ARRL noted that Morse code is encoded and would fall within the prohibition as proposed by NYU. "The very fact that messages sent in CW are 'encoded' by any definition of the term starkly demonstrates the problem with this proposal," ARRL said.

ARRL said that adding the word "effectively" would make the definition even more vague by including all encoded messages plus an additional set of undefined messages, the extent of which is unknown. Similarly, ARRL maintained, it is "unclear and undetermined what the petitioner may mean by 'effectively encrypted.'" Encryption is a binary proposition, ARRL pointed out, and the meaning either is hidden from all but the intended recipient(s) or it is not; a message cannot be considered "encrypted" if the means to enable non-recipients to understand the message are generally available.

"Adding the modifier 'effectively' to 'encrypted' converts clear meaning into vague uncertainty," ARRL asserted. FCC rules explicitly authorize radio amateurs to use new digital techniques on the condition that the techniques be described adequately and available publicly, ARRL said, pointing to multiple filings in the FCC record from individuals who have successfully used the public descriptions to decode the digital techniques with which NYU has expressed concern.

NYU has not presented any information to demonstrate that the FCC's current rule is not being complied with by digital innovators, ARRL said, and adoption of NYU's petition would create more questions for the FCC than it would answer when the FCC may be called upon to apply the petition's vague language in specific cases.

"We are unaware of any enforcement case in which the Commission is experiencing difficulty in understanding and applying the prohibition against encrypted messages," ARRL maintained.

What the petitioner regards as violations "augurs against its proposal to interpret in some new fashion the international and domestic prohibition," ARRL said. "For example," ARRL continued, "the petitioner asserts, without any basis in fact, that dynamic compression techniques effectively encrypt or encode communications." Such techniques are widely recognized ways to increase the efficiency of digital transmissions," ARRL noted that comments in the record clearly state that signals using dynamic compression are being decoded by third-party listeners.

"The Commission has addressed amateur use of digital signals in multiple proceedings [and] there has been no showing that the current regulatory scheme is deficient in prohibiting encrypted messages," ARRL concluded. "To the contrary, adoption of the petitioner's proposals would add confusion — rather than clarity — and diverge from the international consensus on prohibiting encrypted messages while fostering vibrant experimentation with digital techniques."

FCC Amending Amateur Radio RF Exposure Safety Rules

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, December 5th, 2019 – The FCC is amending its Part 97 Amateur Service rules relating to RF exposure safety. In a [lengthy document](#) in ET Docket 19-226 released on December 4 that addresses a broad range of RF safety issues, the FCC said current amateur radio RF exposure safety limits will remain unchanged, but that the amateur-specific exemption from having to conduct an RF exposure evaluation will be replaced by the FCC's general exemption criteria. Radio amateurs have always had to comply with RF exposure limits, but certain stations have been exempt from having to conduct evaluations based only upon power and frequency. The Commission indicated that by and large, if an RF source was "categorically excluded" from routine evaluation under the old rules, it will most likely still be exempt under the new rules, which are expected to take effect in the next couple of months.

"For applicants and licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, we substitute our general exemption criteria for the specific exemption from routine evaluation based on power alone in Section 97.13(c)(1) and specify the use of occupational/controlled limits for amateurs where appropriate," the FCC said.

"The sky is not falling here," ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare W1RFI, commented. "The major aspects of the rules will not impose major new burdens on the Amateur Radio Service. As in all regulatory matters, though, the devil may be in the details, so the ARRL technical staff, legal staff, and the experts on the ARRL RF Safety Committee are carefully evaluating this FCC document."

Under the revised Section 97.13(c)(1), "In lieu of evaluation with the general population/uncontrolled exposure limits, amateur licensees may evaluate their operation with respect to members of his or her immediate household using the occupational/controlled exposure limits in Section 1.1310, provided appropriate training and information has been accessed by the amateur licensee and members of his/her household," the amended rule says.

"RF exposure of other nearby persons who are not members of the amateur licensee's household must be evaluated with respect to the general population/uncontrolled exposure limits. Appropriate methodologies and guidance for evaluating Amateur Radio Service operation is described in the Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) [Bulletin 65, Supplement B](#)," the revised rule concludes.

The FCC said it was not persuaded by ARRL's argument in its comments that the routine evaluation exemption for amateur radio stations operating below a certain power threshold should be maintained. "Amateur radio licensees operate a variety of installations of different size, power, and frequency, which can be located in close proximity to people, giving rise to various RF exposure concerns," the FCC noted.

In a meeting with FCC OET Chief Julius Knapp and senior staff in early November, ARRL asked the FCC to make available on the internet a calculator to facilitate making the correct calculations the rules require. ARRL said that would be preferable to unofficial third-party calculators, the results from which might not be accorded the same degree of deference in local disputes. Several software programs were suggested as models.

The FCC did not single out amateur radio in drafting its latest RF exposure rules. The rules affect multiple services, and exemptions for many other services were also deleted as part of a broader policy driven by a proliferation of RF devices, some resulting in situations where gain antennas are sited much closer to people than was expected in 1996 when the rules were last revised.



AC Mains Drop Neutral Loss

Glen E. Zook K9STH courtesy of www.qrz.com

Richardson, TX, December 19th, 2019 – In the United States, the "normal" electric service to homes and small businesses consists of 3-wires from the pole pig (distribution transformer). These wires connect to the secondary winding of the transformer in the following configuration: The "hot" wires go to the outer sides of the secondary winding and the "neutral" is connected to the center tap of the secondary winding.

Most of the larger electric companies have adopted a 125 VAC / 250 VAC standard +/- 2 volts. That is, between the outside connections of the secondary winding and the neutral is 125 VAC and the voltage, when measured between the outside winding connections, is 250 VAC.

Most household devices operate on 125 VAC and are connected between an outside winding connection and the neutral. Within the building, the electric outlets are wired so that approximately half the load is on each side of the secondary winding.

If, somehow, the neutral connection is lost, each half of the load suddenly become in series which unbalances the voltage. When the load, on one half, is greater, the voltage on that half, due to Ohm's law, will decrease with the voltage, on the other half, increasing. Depending on the ratio of each load, the voltage on one half can easily reach 140 VAC or even more.

Just because I have it, I keep a digital voltage monitor, reading the line voltage, in my workshop. The normal voltage is around 127 VAC. However, yesterday, I noticed that, when the furnace "kicked in" (actually the blower), the voltage suddenly started reading 134 VAC and when the fan stopped it dropped back to around normal. That meant an open neutral!

Several years ago, squirrels had chewed through the neutral and a splice had been added to correct the situation.

An open neutral is a Class "A" fault and, at least around here, a serviceman will be on site within 2-hours. I telephoned the electric distribution company and a serviceman was here in less than an hour.

According to the serviceman, this time the open neutral was caused by a tree limb rubbing against the wire. He trimmed branches from several trees that were in a position to cause problems and then repaired the neutral.

Next, he checked the voltages and then applied a 40 ampere load to each side checking the voltage drop. His voltmeter agrees with my digital voltmeters except that his had an additional calibration 1 more digit to the right of the decimal point. He read 127.3 VAC and, when the 40 ampere load was applied, the voltage dropped 3.9 volts. According to the serviceman, this voltage drop was as close to "perfect" as could be.

Unfortunately, an open neutral happens fairly often and most people do not detect the situation until over voltage damage has occurred. The easiest way to tell if you might have problems is when a major appliance, furnace, etc., turns on and the lights either dim a fair amount or the lights get a noticeable amount brighter. If this does happen on a regular basis, then I suggest calling your electric company. They will send out a serviceman, almost always with no charge, to check things out. You can call an electrician but that is going to cost and, if there is an open neutral, you still have to call the electric company.

Continued Odyssey of the Argonauts

Anthony Luscre K8ZT courtesy of www.eham.net

Stow, OH, December 2nd, 2019 – In 2003 I was writing a column, "QRP Community", for the ARRL Website. My April column was entitled "The Odyssey of the Argonauts" (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VfIO1v2O2iDNJAoi9i83r6phBCAXG2zS1h0udyK5WLQ/preview>). The article described the 1970s origins and later versions of the TenTec Argonaut series. This weekend I extended my own personal odyssey with Argonauts as I made FT4 and FT8 contacts with one of my 1970s vintage TenTec Argonauts, a model 509.

After a few minutes of soldering to build interface cables from an MFJ 1204 USB Radio Interface, a few minutes of WSJT-X software set up and Windows Sound Devices configuration and renaming and a few hours of troubleshooting (more on that later), my first call resulted in an FT4 QSO. Quickly in the next few minutes, I added another half-dozen FT4 QSOs with the Argonauts mighty 2 watts!

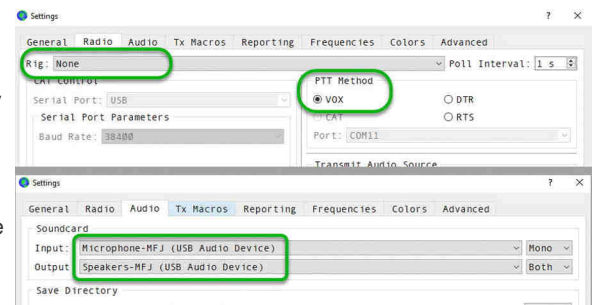
You might be asking why would I want to use a forty-year-old radio with no computer interface capability for a computerized digital mode like FT4 or FT8? Well, partly it was the challenge to see if I could do it and secondly my continued fondness for the Argonaut series that I lusted after as a teenager interested in ham radio.

So how did I do it? First, you need to realize that you really do not need computer control of the radio's frequency as you can set the dial manually. Next, I need a way to interface the computer's audio input/output from WSJT-X to the radio and a way to control PTT to key the radio. I had just acquired a used MFJ 1204 USB Radio Interface with no pre-made radio-specific-interface cable so I was going to have to make up a cable anyway so Argonaut became my target. A quick check of the owner manual gave me wiring for Argonauts Microphone plug and mono speaker jack. One half of an old RJ-45 network cable provided the end to plug into MFJ-1204. I used a small project box and scrap of circuit board prototyping board to complete the project.

After I completed soldering and hooked everything up I connected the interface to radio and computer. Connecting the USB cable from the MFJ 1204 to computer resulted in two new sound devices in Windows 10. Unfortunately, they gave them the same names as the USB sound devices from my Elecraft K3S, so I renamed each with "MFJ" to distinguish them. I cloned my WSJT-X configuration and then made configuration changes for the Argonaut. See settings below. Never mind that the Argonaut does not have VOX, the MFJ 1204 will take care of keying the rig (after you make the adjustment I made, see picture right).

I tuned the Argonaut to 14.070 USB and began to hear FT8 signals. I ended up adjusting frequency to approximately 14.073 (remember the dial is not that accurate on this analog display anyway) to get signals in the passband. I was almost immediately rewarded with decoded stations on the WSJT-X display. FT8 was very busy so I dialed up to 14.080 and changed to FT4.

After receiving stations I tried transmitting but the radio did not respond. PTT was not working. I recheck all of my connections, soldering, etc. still no luck. After an hour I gave up and asked on the WSJT-X mailing list if anyone knew how to solve my PTT issue. Fortunately, the 2nd reply gave me the clue to solving my problem. Mike Black, W9MDB reminded me that there has to be enough audio coming out of your computer to trigger the PTT circuitry in the MFJ-1204. A quick adjustment of my Windows sound level settings solved the problem and my first 2-way FT4 contact with K7GA using the Argonaut was logged in minutes. The best thing is this simple setup will work with almost any radio with SSB capability, no matter its age.





Two Solar Cycle 25 Sunspots Appear American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, December 30th, 2019 – New Solar Cycle 25 is on the way, but just when the transition from Cycle 24 to Cycle 25 will take place is not entirely clear.

On December 24th, two new sunspots — one in each hemisphere — emerged on the face of the sun that exhibit the reversed magnetic polarity marking them as belonging to Solar Cycle 25. According to [Hale's Law](#), sunspot polarities flip-flop from one solar cycle to the next, the National Center for Atmospheric Research explains.

"The sun is currently in solar minimum — the nadir of the 11-year sunspot cycle," Tony Phillips said in his article, "[Reversed Polarity Sunspots Appear on the Sun](#)" on the Spaceweather.com website. "It's a deep minimum, century-class according to sunspot counts." The remarkable sunspot scarcity has prompted discussion of a possible "extended minimum" akin to the Maunder Minimum in the 17th century, when no sunspots appeared for decades, Phillips said. "Such an event could have implications for terrestrial climate."

"Today's new-cycle sunspots (along with isolated new-cycle spots earlier this year) suggest that the solar cycle is, in fact, unfolding normally," Phillips wrote, adding that a new Maunder Minimum does *not* appear to be in the offing.

Earlier this month, the NOAA/NASA-co-chaired international Solar Cycle Prediction Panel released its [latest forecast](#) for Solar Cycle 25. The panel's consensus calls for a peak in July 2025 (± 8 months), with a smoothed sunspot number of 115 and the solar minimum between Cycles 24 and 25 occurring in April 2020 (± 6 months). If this solar minimum prediction is correct, it would make Solar Cycle 24 the seventh longest on record at 11.4 years.

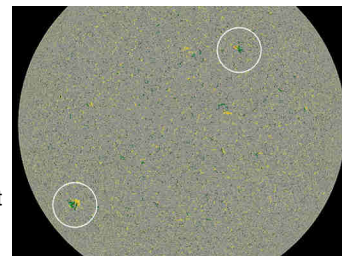
Climate scientist David Archibald speculates that the Solar Cycle 24/25 minimum could occur as late as March 2021, and that Cycle 25 maximum might not happen until 2027.

"We are well into the Solar Cycle 24/25 minimum but [Cycle] 24 may not have ended yet," Archibald said in a December 22nd [update](#) on the Watts Up With That? website. "A solar cycle isn't over until the heliospheric current sheet has flattened. And that could be as late as March 2021. Solar cycle amplitude does matter with respect to climate and the amplitude of Solar Cycle 25, from projecting trends from the last three cycles, looks like being about 80 in 2027."

The Solar Cycle Prediction Panel agreed that Cycle 25 will be of average intensity and similar to Cycle 24.

In an [article](#) posted on NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center site, Scott McIntosh, the Director of the High Altitude Observatory at National Center for Atmospheric Research ([NCAR](#)), stresses that Solar Cycle 25 will happen, "but a sunspot cycle could be small."

Predictability comes with some physical understanding of the underlying process, McIntosh asserts. "The sunspot cycle is erratic," he said in his presentation, "provocative of a chaotic, turbulent solar interior where sunspot progressions with time and latitude are the only tracers..."



Volunteer Monitor Program Coordinator Looking Forward to a Positive 2010 American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, December 30th, 2019 – In a holiday season message to ARRL leadership and to members of the new ARRL Volunteer Monitor program, its coordinator, Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH, expressed his gratitude to all involved for their contributions to getting the program off to a solid start in January.

"It will be a good year," Hollingsworth said. "We will have fun, you will enjoy it more than you probably think, and — thanks to the talent and generosity of one of our VMs — a computer program will make your reporting *much* easier (there will be no need for bi-monthly reports!)," he wrote. "This is our opportunity to help amateur radio last another hundred years and to pay forward this wonderful avocation that joyfully occupies our lives. This could be our legacy if we do it with all the energy and devotion that characterized the Official Observer (OO) program for decades."

Hollingsworth said the success of the OO program convinced the FCC to trust ARRL with the responsibilities now to be taken up by the Volunteer Monitor program.

"Those of you who are former OOs have an extra reason to be proud, and amateur radio is grateful to you more than you will ever know," Hollingsworth concluded. "Thank you. It will be a privilege to work with you this new year."



Over-The-Horizon Radars Causing Widespread Interference on 40 Meters American Radio Relay League

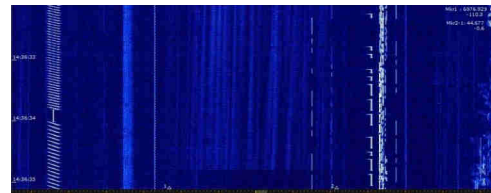
Newington, CT, December 19th, 2019 – Over-the-horizon (OTH) radars continue to plague various amateur radio bands. Those operating on exclusive ham radio allocations have been complaining for years, but military systems have a blanket waiver to use amateur radio frequencies. The latest edition of the International Amateur Radio Union Monitoring System ([IARUMS](#)) [newsletter](#) reports that a radar in northern Iran — likely military — has been operating 40 meters (6978 – 7022 kHz). Several Russian and Chinese OTH radars have become mainstays in the ham bands. While these sort of signals are operating on exclusive amateur radio allocations, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) [Convention](#) essentially gives military stations free reign in the spectrum. Article 48 says, "Member States retain their entire freedom with regard to military radio installations." Member states are countries that have agreed to follow the Convention, and that is not a given.

The Convention goes on to say, however, "Nevertheless, these installations must, so far as possible, observe statutory provisions relative to giving assistance in case of distress and to the measures to be taken to prevent harmful interference [emphasis added], and the provisions of the Administrative Regulations concerning the types of emission and the frequencies to be used, according to the nature of the service performed by such installations."

According to IARUMS, the Iranian OTH radar was centered on 7000 kHz using amplitude modulation on pulse (AMOP) at 81 sweeps per second. [Recordings of military transmissions](#) are available on the SIGIDWIKI signal identification site.

The South African Amateur Radio League (SARL) News reported this week that radio amateurs in Europe and South America have reported major interference from Russian OTH radar stations on several parts of 40 meters — with 12 kHz-wide signals. The radar transmissions have been heard on 7064, 7109, 7170, and 7190 kHz.

Several European IARU member-societies have already sent complaints to their respective telecommunications regulators..



Waveform of the Iranian Over The Horizon Radar on 40 Meters (above) courtesy of Wolf Hadel DK2OM

Contest University 2020

Tim Duffy K3LR, Contest University Chairman

West Middlesex, PA, December 21st, 2019—I am proud to announce that student registration is now open for the 2020 Dayton ConTest University ("CTU") to be held all day on Thursday May 14th, 2020 at the Crowne Plaza in Dayton, Ohio. <http://contestuniversity.com> This is the day before Hamvention opens in Xenia, Ohio

Registration opened on December 16th, 2019 and already 50 contesters have signed up!. Last year (2019 was a sell out with 350 attending).

Eight different countries have hosted CTUs over the past thirteen years. USA, Australia, Russia, Germany, Italy, England, Brazil and Finland. Over 8500 students have attended these CTUs with more than 100 CTU Professors sharing their contesting experiences.

2020 will be the 14th year in a row for CTU Dayton. To give you an idea of the quality of the CTU content and activities you can see videos and PDFs from past CTUs on the CTU web site at <http://contestuniversity.com>

The 2020 CTU Professor line up will be posted on the CTU website very soon. Thanks to our returning professors NCØB, WØYK, K3LR, W3LPL, N6TV, W3YQ, N0AX and K1DG. You will notice additional NEW professors for 2020 once the posting is complete and posted. CTU professor stalwart Frank, W3LPL is back for CTU 2020 after his sabbatical in 2019. Frank has taught many many sessions at CTU over the past 13 years.

The 2020 CTU Dayton course outline will be posted soon. Check the CTU website for updates. Each presentation is carefully prepared with up to date information.

There are scholarships (registration fee paid) available for CTU through a grant from the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) for those students 25 years old and younger. Please use the "contact us" button on the CTU website to get more information.

2020 Student registration information is on the CTU web site <http://contestuniversity.com>

Important - as we did last year - if you want to sign up for CTU 2020 Dayton and you have given (or will give one by Hamvention 2020) a talk about Amateur Radio to any club, Hamfest or group since May 14th, 2019 - you qualify for a \$10.00 registration fee discount. Please choose the "Registration with Club talk discount" option to get the \$10.00 discount. Spreading the word about amateur radio is lots of fun and can save you money at CTU!

Thanks to all of the CTU sponsors including Icom America, DX Engineering, the Northern California DX Foundation, YASME, the Radio Club of America and CQ Magazine for making CTU possible. Thanks to K8MNJ and K1SO for all of their help with CTU. Special thanks to Scott, KA9FOX from QTH.com for hosting and constructing the CTU headquarters web site.



Memories of Christmas Past... This Factory-Built Johnson Viking Ranger II was the just unwrapped Christmas Present of W3NVS (SK), circa mid-1950's.

Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2019 Gary Weslager K3GW

DX News Briefs



Z81D is expected to be QRV from Juba for at least more months, 80 – 10, SSB FT8 & FT4. QSL via OM3JW

PZ/PA4ARI is QRV through 7 January, 80 40 & 20, SSB, FT4 QSL via PA4ARI.

SP3PS is again be QRV as **C5SP** through 17 January, 20 – 6 meters, SSB & FT8 (mainly on 20 meters). QSL via SP3PS

8Q7BS will be QRV from AS-013 3 – 23 January, holiday style, primarily 20 & 40 meters SSB. QSL via RX3AMY

HC2JKT will be QRV from Puna Island (SA-034) 10 – 30 January, 40 – 6 SSB Only. QSL via EA1VE

HR9/WA4DT will be QRV from West Bay, Roatan Island (NA-057), 19 January -- 2 February, 40 & 30, CW & FT8. QSL via WA4DT direct only.

VO2AC will be QRV during the 2020 CQWW 160 contest, 24 – 26 January, from the Point Amour Lighthouse, the tallest lighthouse in Atlantic Canada. QSL via VE3FU

6W7/ON4AVT will be QRV in February, primarily 60 meters FT8, with some SSB & CW. More information via https://www.on4avt.be/trip_to_senegal.htm. QSL via Bureau.

V31CO will be QRV for 3 weeks starting 1 February, various HF bands, CW RTTY & FT8. WØYBS has bought a condo there and will be QRV afterwards on a regular basis. More information at <http://w0ybs.com>. QSL via WØYBS

F8AAN will be QRV from Rodrigues Island (AF-017) 3 – 18 March. Call will be either **3B9AN** or **3B9/F8AAN**. Activity expected on 160 – 16 CW. QSL via F8AAN or ClubLog

A team of operations will be QRV from **J2 Djibouti** (call sign pending) 4 – 16 March, with 3 stations, 160 – 10, CW SSB & Digital modes. More information at <http://www.dl7df.com/j2>. QSL via DL7DF

TO7BP will be QRV during the CQ WPX SSB contest, 28 – 29 March. Before and after, he will be QRV as **FM/EA1BP**. QSL via EA1BP

QSL Routes

3D2AA via EA5GL	DK6AN	ON4WRA
4L8A via K1BV	DL25ØBTHVN via	OR4LAN via ON4LAN
4U1A via UA3DX	DL7DSW	SFØZ via SMØHEV
4U1XMAS via	HB3ØYDL via	SO5N via SP5BMU
UA3DX	HB3YDL	SV1AHH/AM via
4X9R via 4Z5LA	HC2JKT via EA1VE	SV1AHH
5IRZZ via I2YSB	HC3ACT via EA5RM	SV9/KC8JNV via
5I5TT via I2YSB	II8FT via II8FT	KC8JNV
5P8VW via DJ8VW	IQ1OD via 9A8MDC	TO7BP via EA1BP
5Q6EE via OZ1BII	KHØ/WB6Z via	TR8CR via F6AJA
8Q7BS via RX3AMY	JF1OCQ	TT8RR via I2YSB
9K91BND via	LS2D VIA EC6DX	TX4N via EA5GL
9K2RA	M6T via G4BWP	V31CO via WØYBS
A75GR VIA MØOXO	OE4XLC via OE4RGC	VK9NR via EA5GL
C4XMAS via	OE5ØNOE via	VO2AC via VE3FU
IZ4AMS	OE6XMF	YJØNC via EA5GL
C55B via SP3PS	OO9A via ON8YB	Z68MA via Z32ZM
CEØY/UR5BCP via	OP75UA via ON4JM	Z81D via OM3JW
KD7WPJ	OR18OST via ON4OS	ZS3Y via N4GNR
DAØFONTANE via	OR18WRA via	

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News Reflector, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, DX Coffee, DX World.Net, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our DX News information. Thanks also to the ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR / The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.



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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

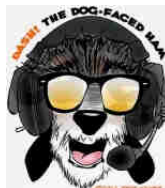
Contact: **Michael S. Lazaroff K3AIR, Esquire**

Lazaroff & Suhr, Attorneys at Law
277 West Main Street, Saxonburg, PA 16056
Phone: 724-352-4905

The **WASHRag** Masthead is courtesy of Jeff Murray K1NSS, creator of DASHToons & Dash the Dog Faced Ham!!

Find the online cartoons and stories of Dash the Dogfaced Ham & more at <https://www.jeffk1nss.com> !

Shop for Dash items at his online store on Café Press, www.cafepress.com/shopdash



US Amateurs by Class as of December 30th, 2019:

Novice	9,026
Technician	417,770
General	189,429
Advanced	41,616
Extra	154,542
Club	12,708
Total	825,091

All-Time High 12/16/2019 825,100

Last 90 Days:	New Amateurs	7,624
	Callsign Changes	2,549
	Class Changes	2,605
	No Longer Licensed	6,652
	All Updates (*)	27,823

(*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.

Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of Hamdata.com

FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, December 17th, 2019 – At its December 12th meeting, the FCC formally adopted a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* in WT Docket 19-348 and invited comments on its plan to remove "existing non-federal secondary radiolocation and amateur allocations" in the 3.3 – 3.55 GHz band and relocate incumbent non-federal operations. The FCC said it's seeking comment on appropriate "transition mechanisms" to make that happen. ARRL has indicated that it will file comments in opposition to the proposal. The amateur 9-centimeter allocation is 3.3 – 3.5 GHz. The *NPRM* comes in response to the MOBILE NOW [Making Opportunities for Broadband Investment and Limiting Excessive and Needless Obstacles to Wireless] Act, approved by the 115th Congress to make available new spectrum for mobile and fixed wireless broadband use.

"By proposing to delete the existing non-federal secondary allocations from the 3.3 – 3.55 GHz band, we are taking an important initial step towards satisfying Congress's directives and making as much as 250 megahertz of spectrum potentially available for advanced wireless services, including 5G," the FCC said in the Introduction to its *NPRM*.

Currently, the entire 3.1 – 3.55 GHz band is allocated for both federal and non-federal radiolocation services, with non-federal users operating on a secondary basis to federal radiolocation services, which have a primary allocation, the *NPRM* explains.

The FCC said it is seeking comment on relocating non-federal licensees to another band. With respect to amateur operations, the FCC invited comments on whether sufficient amateur spectrum exists in other bands that can support the operations currently conducted at 3.3 – 3.5 GHz. The 3.40 – 3.41 GHz segment is earmarked for amateur satellite communication. "We seek comment on the extent to which the band is used for this purpose, whether existing satellites can operate on other amateur satellite bands, and on an appropriate timeframe for terminating these operations in this band," the FCC said. If non-federal licensees are relocated to 3.1 – 3.3 GHz band, the FCC proposes that they continue to operate on a secondary basis to federal operations, consistent with current band allocations.

Some comments began to arrive before the FCC formally adopted the *NPRM*, as it points out in a footnote. Kevin Milner KD0MA, the secretary/treasurer of the Ski Country Amateur Radio Club in Colorado, has argued that the club's equipment cannot be re-channelled below 3.4 GHz, and the club is seeking relocation costs. Devin Ulibarri W7ND, told the FCC that amateur networks in the current band cannot move easily into other amateur allocations because there is no readily available commercial equipment to support the bandwidth, the FCC recounted.

In the event the proposed amendments are adopted, the FCC "seeks comment on relocation options and on transition and protection mechanisms for incumbent non-federal operations."

Also at its December 12th meeting, the FCC considered *another NPRM* in WT Docket 19-138 that would "take a fresh and comprehensive look" at the rules for the 5.9 GHz band and propose, among other things, to make the lower 45 MHz of the band available for unlicensed operations and to permit "cellular vehicle-to-everything" (C-V2X) operations in the upper 20 MHz of the band. The FCC is *not* proposing to delete or otherwise amend the amateur allocation, which would continue as a secondary allocation.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (*AREDN*) has *offered its voice* in challenging the FCC proposals on the two bands, saying their adoption would "eliminate our use of the most-effective resource hams have to build its networks."

"The AREDN Project is able to leverage low-cost commercial devices solely because they are designed to operate on adjacent allocations," AREDN said on its website. "Moving to other allocations would be difficult if not impossible without a complete redesign, manufacture, purchase, and installation of new custom amateur hardware and software..., raising the price out of reach for the typical ham."

Interested parties may file short comments on WT Docket 19-348 via the FCC's [Electronic Comment Filing Service \(Express\)](#). Visit the FCC [How to Comment on FCC Proceedings](#) page for information on filing extended comments.

If you've downloaded the **WASHRag** from the N3SH web site, or picked up a copy from a friend... you can sign up to have the PDF copy sent directly to your email. You **do NOT** have to be a member of **WASH**!

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Has Roadway found the tower yet?





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Sponsored by the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Sunday, February 23rd, 2020
8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

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Donation \$5



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courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES
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Second Prize: Yaesu FTM-7250DR 2/440 50 Watt Mobile
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For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466 n3sbf@comcast.net
E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.n3sh.org

Please Note: Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31st, 2020.

Reservations received after February 1st, 2020 must include payment in full.

Reserve now... we have sold out in advance ten years running!

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: _____ X \$12.00 = _____

5 Or More Tables w/o: _____ X \$10.00 = _____

Please make all checks payable to:
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS
PLEASE MAIL RESERVATION TO:
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c/o CAROL DANKO KB3GMN
4246 Seton Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-1244

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application, New or Renewal



I would like to join WASH! I am interested in the following type of membership: ☐ **New Membership** ☐ **Membership Renewal**

(check quarter _____)
(check one)

	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	<input type="checkbox"/> 4th Qtr Oct-Dec
<input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50

☐ (FM1) Family Membership (\$3.00 x No. of household family members): \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

New Members Only:

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List

[If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out]

Signature: _____

Call Sign: _____

License Class: _____

Expires On: _____

Work Phone: _____

Birthday: _____

ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No Family ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

N3RDV has requested that all membership requests and renewals include an application so that his information is up to date

Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla.
The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject new memberships or renewals.
Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.
c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
1120 McKnight Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456



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Arghh!
What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?

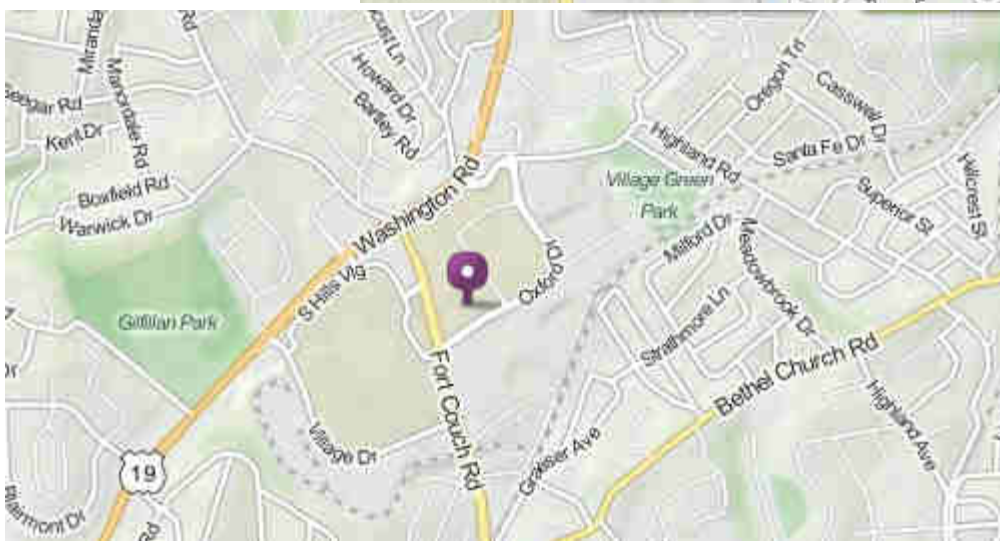
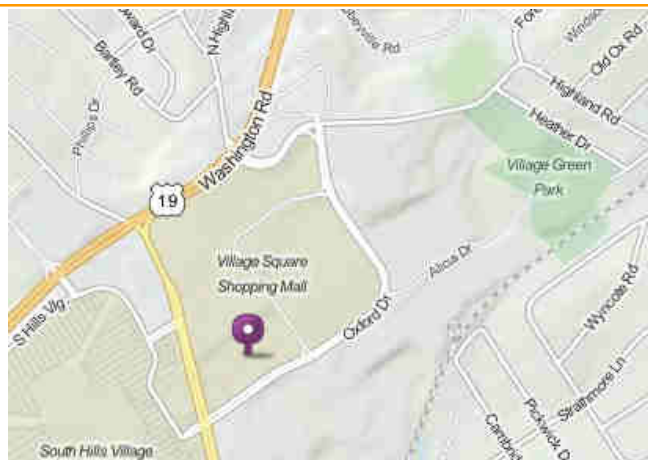


2020 WASH Meeting Location

St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center Conference Room

2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park PA 15102

Adjacent to Village Square Mall, across Ft. Couch Road from
South Hills Village Mall, just off of US Route 19



The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

3395 Rosewood Drive

Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



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